

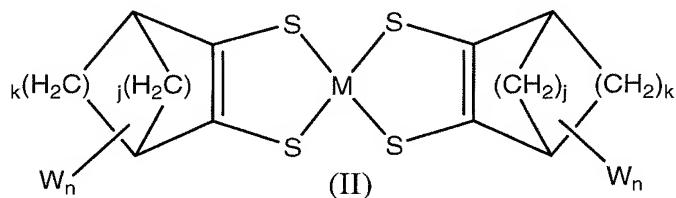
**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1 – 17. (Cancelled).

18. (Currently Amended) The A stabilized ink composition of claim 1 comprising an IR-absorbing metal-dithiolene dye and a singlet oxygen quencher, wherein the metal-dithiolene dye is of formula (II):



wherein:

M is selected from Ni, Pd or Pt;

j is selected from 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

k is selected from 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

n is selected from 0, 1, 2 or 3;

W is a hydrophilic group selected from the group comprising: a substituent comprising an ammonium group; a substituent comprising an acid group, including salts thereof; and a substituent comprising a sulfonamide group; up to three  $-(CH_2)-$  groups in the carbocycle may be optionally replaced by a group independently selected from  $-C(O)-$ ,  $-NH-$ ,  $-S-$ ,  $-O-$ ; up to three  $-CH-$  groups in the carbocycle may be optionally replaced by  $-N-$ ; up to four H atoms in the carbocycle may be optionally replaced by a group independently selected from  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl,  $C_{5-12}$  alkoxy,  $C_{5-12}$  aryl,  $C_{5-12}$  arylalkyl, halogen, hydroxyl or amino; and provided that at least one of j or k is greater than 0.

19. (Original) The ink composition of claim 18, wherein M is Ni.

20. (Original) The ink composition of claim 18, wherein j is 1 and k is 2.

21. (Original) The ink composition of claim 18 comprising a  $-C(C_{1-4} \text{ alkyl})_2-$  bridging group.

22. (Original) The ink composition of claim 18, wherein n is 1.

23. (Cancelled).

24. (Original) The ink composition of claim 18, wherein W is of formula  $-(CH_2)_t-SO_3Z$ , wherein t is 0 or an integer from 1 to 6, and Z is H or a water-soluble cation.

25. (Original) The ink composition of claim 18, wherein W is of formula  $-CH_2SO_3H$ ,  $-CH_2SO_3Na$  or  $-CH_2SO_3K$ .

26 – 54. (Cancelled).